(b) According to Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers conducted by National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in its 59th Round (January-December. 200,). 71 per cent of farmers did not know or understand the concept of Minimum Support Price (MSP) 10 per cent understood what MSP meant but not of the procurement agency. Remaining 19 per cent understood the idea of MSP and also knew the procurement agency.

(c) To create awareness among farmers, support is provided to the States in strengthening extension programmes through schemes like support to State Extension Programmes Mass Media Support to Agriculture. Kisan Call Centres and Establishment of Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres. Further, these are displayed in the Department s website. Mass Media programmes and exhibition/Kisan *melas.*

Bird flu

3. SHRI A. VIJYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority has taken control measures regarding the outbreak of H5NI avian influenza outbreak in the north eastern region during the last two months;

(b) if so the details including the source of outbreak, birds culled and the financial support provided to the poultry farmers/other citizens as on today, category-wise. State-wise; and

(c) if so the details of H5NI avian influenza outbreak in various States including the number of birds culled, financial support provided, source of outbreak, total loss due to the outbreak, steps taken to control/prevent further outbreak for the last three years, State-wise, year-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes Sir. Only one outbreak of avian influenza (H5N1) has been notified in one small unit at Village Chingmeirong of East Imphal District on 25th July 2007 Control and containment measures were initiated immediately to stamp out and prevent the spread of the disease of poultry. The details are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(b) A committee has been set up to assess the source of infection in the outbreak of avian influenza in Manipur.

More than 3.36 lakhs poultry have been culled during the control operation in Manipur.

Compensation is payable for poultry culled in operations and for destruction of feed and feed materials. More than Rs. 70.00 lakhs has already been paid as compensation in Manipur. The cost of such compensation is shared by the Government of India on a 50:50 basis.

(c) No outbreak from any other State of the North Eastern Region has been reported in the last three years.

Statement

Measures taken to prevent the spread of the diseases The following measures were taken in Manipur to prevent the spread of avian influenza:

1 Demarcation of infected and surveillance areas was carried out in accordance with the Action Plan. An area of 0-5 kms. was designated as the Infected Zone and a further area of 5-10 kms. was designated as the Surveillance Zone.

2. The poultry, both backyard and commercial, has been culled in a radius of 0-5 kms around the affected farm premises. More than 3.36 lakh birds have been killed in the control operations.

3. Other infected materials such as poultry eggs, feathers, feed, feed materials, protective cloth used by the staff engaged in operations etc. has also been destroyed. More than 25,242 kg of feed material and nearly 28 thousand eggs have been destroyed.

4. Thereafter cleaning and disinfection of the infected premises/area has been undertaken, which is under progress.

5. Physical surveillance in the 5-10 km area is being continued to ascertain if there is any further unusual mortality. No unusual mortality has been reported in the surveillance zone as well as from anywhere else in the State.

6. The Government of India has maintained strategic reserve of poultry vaccines. The option of vaccination is thus available to the country. However, vaccination has not yet been introduced in the country.

7. The personnel involved in containment work were provided personal protective equipment and brought under cover of Tamiflu by the health authorities.

8. It is the policy of the Government of India to pay compensation to owner for culled poultry. The costs are being shared on a 50:50 basis with the State Government. More than 70 lakhs Indian Rupees has been paid as compensation.

Moreover, the following measures have also been taken up by the Government of India to prevent spread of the disease to other States:

1. Action Plan for Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza for Animal Husbandry has been prepared and circulated by Government of India to facilitate action by the State Governments.

2. Import of poultry & poultry products has been banned completely from Avian Influenza positive countries.

3. All the State Governments have been alerted to be vigilant about the outbreak of the disease if any.

4. Border security formations and custom field formations have been alerted.

5. State of the north-east specially those bordering outbreak countries like Bangladesh. Myanmar and China have been alerted.

6. Nationwide surveillance is continuing. More than 1,43.000 samples have been tested at High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal since February 2006.

7. Testing for Avian Influenza have also been started at Regional Level *viz.,* Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories, Kolkata, Bangalore, Pune and Jallandhar. So far about 37,000 samples have been tested in the regional laboratories.

8. The training of veterinary personnel in preparedness, control and containment is continuing.

9. A National workshop on Preparedness. Control and Containment of Avian Influenza was organized at Pune during May 2007 and recently a Regional Workshop of the North-Eastern States (Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram. Arunachal Pradesh. Nagaland and West Bengal) was organized at Kolkata by Government of India from 26-28th July 2007.

Inclusion of Orissa under NHM

4. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many districts of Orissa have been included under National Horticulture Mission; and

(b) the details of measures that are proposed to be taken for development of horticulture in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Nineteen districts of Orissa have been included under National Horiticulture Mission.

(b) For the development of horticulture in Orissa, the measures/activities being undertaken under National Horiticulture Mission includes production and distribution of quality planting material, area expansion of fruits, flower, spices, aromatic and medicinal plants, rejuvenation/replacement of senile orchards, creation of water resources, protected cultivation, promotion of integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, adoption of organic farming, pollination support through bee keeping, technology dissemination through demonstrations, development of infrastructure for post harvest management and marketing besides skill development of farmers, departmental officers and entrepreneurs through training and exposure visits.

Horticulture College in Orissa

5. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR proposes to provide funds for establishment of one Horticulture College in Orissa under OVAT and for development of horticulture sector in the State; and

(b) if so, the details along with the status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. Agricultural Education is a State subject and establishment of agricultural universities/colleges comes with the purview of the concerned State Government.

(b) The question does not arise.

Special mission for Wheat, Rice and Pulses

† 6. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a special mission very soon in order to increase the production of wheat, rice and pulses; and

(b) if so, whether any other programme is also proposed to increrase the growth rate of agriculture sector along with the above programme?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi